

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 AID-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 220308

FOR AMBASSADOR LUCEY FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF RODOLFO HERRERA-NEVAREZ

REFERENCE: MEXICO 14082

1. WE FULLY SHARE EMBASSY'S AND DEA'S CONCERN OVER AG FLORES' APPARENTLY UNJUSTIFIED RELEASE OF HERRERA AND POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS ACTION FOR FUTURE NARCOTICS COOPERATION WITH FLORES AND WITH GOM. ACCORDINGLY, YOU SHOULD REQUEST AN APPOINTMENT WITH FLORES AT THE EARLIEST
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OPPORTUNITY, PREFERABLY NOT LATER THAN AUGUST 31, TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN AND DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE RELEASE OF HERRERA-NEVAREZ. WE ARE PARTICULARLY PUZZLED BY FLORES' DIRECT ROLE IN RELEASE AND SEEMING LACK OF COGENCY OF HIS EXPLANATION, SO YOU SHOULD SEEK FURTHER AMPLIFICATION FROM FLORES OF RATIONALE HE GAVE EARLIER TO DRD MACOLINI. FOLLOWING ARE SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS YOU MAY

DRAW ON:

-- THE USG IS DEEPLY CONCERNED AND PUZZLED BY THE SUDDEN RELEASE OF HERRERA, AN ADMITTED TRAFFICKER IN NARCOTICS BETWEEN MEXICO AND THE U.S. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US AND TO MEXICAN POLICE, THERE WERE AMPLE GROUNDS FOR DETENTION ON NARCOTICS AND OTHER CHARGES.

-- ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US, IT APPEARS THAT THERE MAY BE A VERY STRONG CASE ALREADY FOR HERRERA TO BE CONSIGNED AND PROSECUTED. HIS EXTRAORDINARY RELEASE, DESPITE VOLUNTARY SELF-INCRIMINATING STATEMENTS, COULD RAISE IN IMPORTANT U.S. CIRCLES SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT THE INTEGRITY OF COOPERATIVE MEXICO-US EFFORTS AGAINST NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS OR THE FIRMNESS OF MEXICO'S COMMITMENT TO INTERDICTION. SUCH DOUBTS CANNOT BUT HAVE HARMFUL EFFECTS ON THE FUTURE OF OUR COOPERATIVE EFFORTS.

-- WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER AMPLIFICATION AG FLORES MIGHT WISH TO GIVE FOR HIS FINDING THAT PROOF AND WITNESSES WERE INADEQUATE TO HOLD HERRERA.

-- WE HOPE THAT THE GOM WILL TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS SWIFTLY TO BRING HERRERA TO JUSTICE. FAILURE TO DO SO MAY ULTIMATELY HAVE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR BOTH GOM AND USG INTERESTS. IN THIS RESPECT, WE WOULD WELCOME SOME
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INDICATION OF FLORES' PLANS FOR FOLLOWING UP ON HERRERA'S CASE SO THAT WE CAN EXPECT HIS EARLY DETENTION. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, PRISONERS RELEASE
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